

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: At page 1, line 11, "fluorescent" is misspelled. At page 2, line 19 and 25 "chlorobenzoxazole" is misspelled. At page 2, line 26, "oC" should be re-written as °C.

Please replace paragraph [0002] with the following amended paragraph:

[0002] The present invention is directed to a novel method for derivatizing amino acids or peptides, which method comprises reacting an amino acid or peptide with a ~~fluorecent~~ fluorescent benzoxazole derivative, such as 2-chlorobenzoxazole.

Please replace paragraph [0010] with the following amended paragraph:

[0010] An aqueous solution of 0.1-5% sodium acetate tri-hydrate (w/v) was prepared first. Fifty uL of this solution is mixed with 1.0 mL of methanol. ~~2-Chlorobenzoxazole~~ Chlorobenzoxazole (10-50 uL) was mixed with methanol-sodium acetate solution..

Please replace paragraph [0011] with the following amended paragraph:

[0011] Amino acid standards (1.0 nmol each from Pierce) in 50 uL of buffer (for e.g. 0.25 M sodium carbonate) was mixed with 100 uL of the above ~~2-chlorobenzoxazole~~ chlorobenzoxazole solution for derivatization. The reaction was allowed to continue typically at 80 [oC] °C for 10-60 min. After the reaction, the samples were diluted with sodium acetate solution and an aliquot was injected onto HPLC for analysis.

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because at line 3, "2-chlorobenzoxazole" is misspelled.

Please replace paragraph [0019] with the following amended paragraph:

[0019] A novel method for the determination of amino acids by HPLC using pre-column derivatization is described. In this procedure, the amino acids are derivatized with ~~ehorobenzoxazole~~ 2-chlorobenzoxazole to yield highly fluorescent N-(2-benzoxazolyl)-amino

acids (BOX-AAAs) for detection at very high sensitivity. Derivatives can also be detected using conventional UV detection methods. The BOX-AAAs can be separated on a C18 reversed phase column for quantitative estimation. This method can be used for the preparation of N-(2-benzoxazolyl)-amino acids in large amounts.